Modernisation of Textile Industry

167. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has estimated that Rs. 1500 crores would be required for the modernisation of textile industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the mills, powerlooms and Handlooms sector-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this amount for modernisation could not be made available by Government so far;

(d) whether Government have proposed that the textile units should mobilise the funds themselves for their development;

(e) if not, the details in this regard; and

(f) the total amount provided to the various Textile Mills in the Powerloom and Handloom sectors separately, since March 1993 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No. sir.

(e) In pursuance of Textile Policy of 1985, Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme was created by Industrial Development Bank of India during the 7th Five Year Plan by earmarking a sum of Rs. 750 crores to meet the modernisation requirement of textile mills. Ministry of Textiles had proposed continuance of the scheme in the 8th Plan with enhaned amount of Rs. 1500 crores which has not been agreed to.

(f) As on 31.3.93 an amount of Rs. 877.74 crores has been disbursed to mills in 307 cases under the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme.

Jute Production

168. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the actual production of jute textiles / bags separately for the last three years and how does it compare with the demand from the user industries like foodgrains, sugar, cement, urea, phosphatic fertilisers etc.;

(b) what was the jute crop production during the same period;

(c) whether it was sufficient to meet the growing demand of the jute packaging materials; if not the shortfall being met; and

(d) what were the compulsions for permitting such imports when alternate indigenous and more efficient packaging material i.e. HDPE woven sacks were available in abundance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) The production of jute textiles/bages for the last three years is given below:

(Qty: In tonnes)

Year (July-June)	Total production of Jute textile/bags	Of which production of sacking bags and		Demand from end-user sectors on the basis of actual off-take			Phosphatic fertilisers
		tarpaulin used for packaging purposes expensively	cloth Food grains	Sugar	Cement	Urea	
1990-91	1421.8	918.9	435.8	174.9	97.5	120.0	Not Packed in jute bags
1991-92	1271.0	731.3	320.3	179.8	65.0	108.5	
1992-93	1342.8	807.0	429.9	156.6	23.5	101.6	

Note: Out of total production of foodgrains, studies indicate that about 40% are available as marketable surplus half of which is packed in second-hand bags and half in new bags. This means only 20% of foodgrains production is packed in new jute bags.

(b) Final estimates of raw jute production as released by Agriculture Ministry during last three years are indicated below:

(In '000 tonnes).

Year (July-June)	Production (In 2'000 bales, of 180 Kgs.)	Equivalent Tonnage quantity
1990-91	91,03	16,39
1991-92	101,82	18,33
1992-93	89,88	16,18

Import of Raw Jute

169. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that raw jute had to be imported to meet the requirements of jute packaging materials;

(b) if so, the foreign exchange outgo for such imports during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that indigenously available HDPE woven sacks and bags could be alternated for jute bags, resulting in not only saving of country's foreign exchange but also provide a boost to the development of small and medium scale HDPE woven sacks industry;

(d) if so, what is the relevance of Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 restricting the use of HDPE woven sacks bags in packing of materials like foodgrains, cement, fertilisers, sugar etc; and

(e) whether there is any proposal before Government to rescind the aforesaid Packing Act, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Raw jute was not required to be imported in recent past to meet requirement of jute packaging materials as domestic production was more than adequate.

(c) No, Sir. Indigenously available HDPE woven sacks and bags are less suitable for packaging of agricultural produce. There are many advantages of using jute bags as they are made from eco-friendly agro-based raw material without any dependence on import. Use of HDPE woven sacks does not result in any saving of country's foreign exchange but on the contrary leads to outgo of foreign exchange because of